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Sherpa Van Trophy - Semi Final Tie
Tuesday, 21st March, 1989
Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

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Season 1988/89
Issue No. 21

ALEX

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Crewe Alexandra Official Programme

Compiled and Edited by Harold Finch

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This evening, for this important Sherpa Van Trophy Semi Final tie we are delighted to welcome to Gresty Road, for the first time, our Match Sponsors, **SANDBURY CONSTRUCTION LTD.**

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We trust that Mr. Stone and his invited guests will enjoy their evening with us here at Crewe Alexandra.

A WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS FROM BOLTON

It is only in recent seasons that Crewe Alexandra and Bolton Wanderers have met either in league or cup encounters but during the various visits both sets of supporters have always been made to feel at home. We trust that this friendly rivalry will again come to the fore this evening and that all those present will witness an excellent game. The stewards on duty in the various parts of the ground are there to assist you, please co-operate with them should they require you to do so.

Cover Shot:-

Paul Fishenden goes past his marker and prepares to fire his shot in for the opener against Lincoln.



HANDY JACK

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Dario Writes ...



Many people felt that we played our best football of the season last Saturday when beating Lincoln. We did manage to make a lot of chances and it was noticeable that they were not just falling to the strikers, but also players coming from deep positions. Dale Jasper got himself right up to the edge of their box but shot weakly when he might have done better playing Kenny Swain in. That's not bad, a centre-half and a right-back up there together. Peter Billing has always been keen to join in the attack, and his play up there is improving. Now Aaron Callaghan is venturing further forward, and he has shown he can pose a goal threat. Steve Walters and Aidan Murphy look dangerous and of course Aidan looks like reaching double figures. As a team we do look as though we are improving and I have felt since the Stockport game that we have looked like a side which should be somewhere near the top of the table. The Lincoln pressmen thought we had improved a lot since we last met them.

Whilst I am not a great one for statistics, I do like the ones which cannot lie. Firstly we have conceded fewer goals than anyone except Rotherham who have conceded two

less. We have only lost five times in thirty four games, two less than Rotherham. Our goals for total is not so good which is why you and I have to sweat it out right to the end most games. We look as though we might be improving in that area - I wonder!

Anyway tonight we put all that behind us as we entertain Bolton in the Sherpa Van Trophy. I believe Phil Neal has stated publically that they will get to Wembley this season so we will have to do our best to prove him wrong. We will not both be able to go! I think Bolton will be a bigger test than Wigan were. Wigan were well below strength that night, and I'm sure Bolton will do much better.

I hope I am not tempting fate by stating that we are having a nice run steering clear of injuries. Ian Macowat, Wakeley Gage and Andy Sussex are all straining at the leash, with Wayne Goodison and Rob Jones not far behind, and Dennis Cronin just a little behind them. It's interesting to note however that twenty four different players have started at least one game for us this season.

My thanks to the three gentlemen who have paid up their bad debts in respect of Paul Fishenden beating the fifteen goal target. They are Mr. Butler of Haslington and David Leech and Chris Pollitt from the Vice-Presidents Association. Chris actually paid £15, so perhaps there are two others there. If only three accepted my bet in the summer then they managed to sound more like thirty when they did it. As this year's A.G.M. has just passed without further mention of it - and I was much too well brought up to mention it myself - I have now passed the £35 to Radio Stoke's Children in Need fund. Thank you gentlemen!

Thank you also for your support tonight!



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CREWE ALEX SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION - SPONSORS OF THE ALEX FOR FIRST TEAM COACH TRAVEL - SEASON 1988/89

Good evening and welcome to this evening's game with Bolton Wanderers. This is a new experience for most of us to be involved in a Cup Semi-Final. We certainly were not here the last time that it happened. Despite some long service medals on our Committee. Hopefully we can go on to what must have been a dream for everyone, that is to take your place at Wembley and watch Crewe Alexandra emerge from the tunnel. Right now that is still a dream but I know that the lads will not be short of any encouragement this evening.

Our friends from Norway will soon be with us again. A few people are due to take in the game against Rotherham on Easter Monday. They are also getting carried away with the season's good fortunes and are constantly on the telephone to our Secretary, Glyn. We are also picking up many more fans worldwide as the club gets more and more media coverage. We constantly receive letters asking for souvenirs and odd snippets of information about the club.

It is good for Dario and everyone at the club to finally get some recognition for the hard work that has gone into the club over the last five or six years. We are sure that there are many more exciting times ahead, but for now let us all enjoy this evening's game and take it from there.

BRIAN SMITH



Mornflake

JUNIOR ALEX NEWS

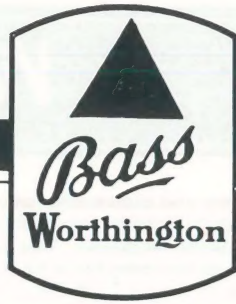
Good evening Junior Reds and welcome to this very important Northern Section Semi-Final tie in the Sherpa Van Trophy. Hopefully if we can win tonight, it will take us a step nearer to that trip to Wembley.

In the last notes we mentioned we would be playing the Junior Millers from Rotherham before the game on Easter Monday on the Soccer Centre pitch. We now know that the age group will be for 14's and under and names for that game would have been taken at last night's training session with Dario. We shall be starting at 12 noon, if you are playing then please bring your kit with a red short if possible, but it is not essential. We hope that supporters for our team will also come along for the starting time. After that game has finished the Family Room will be open for refreshments and you can also play pool or watch T.V. until the main match starts. The demand for seats for the Rotherham game will be very keen so we would advise you to get your tickets in advance.

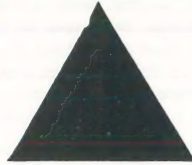
Make a note of the 22nd April, that is the day that the Alex play at Cambridge and the Junior Alex will be holding a produce stall at Sandbach Market. That event will be to raise funds for the Junior Alex, to assist in getting better facilities, expenses towards five a side competitions also for when we hold parties or go on other trips. If there are any budding Chefs amongst you or failing that if you could persuade your mothers to make things for the stall we would be very grateful for any help. You can contact Dave Moran on 215108 or John Ford on 0477 33805 so we can arrange to pick up the produce. If you are not going on the trip to Cambridge then perhaps you could come along and support our stall.

There are just 12 league games to go to complete this season before we come to that time known as the close season. We will be keeping the Monday night training sessions going holding our own 5 a side competitions inviting teams from Burnley, Preston and other clubs.

Finally a reminder that we will be holding our Player of the Year party when we present the award and also have a good time as well. It will soon come around so you had better start thinking about your choice so that you are prepared when the voting time comes around.



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Viewpoint

So many phrases and expressions have been coined in respect of football supporters especially when the media chooses to highlight standards of behaviour that the terms "genuine" or "well behaved" seem to have been forgotten altogether. That may seem to be a rather curious introduction but exactly a week ago your writer was returning home from Hartford on a rainswept evening and eventually the train from Liverpool arrived at around 22.45. Most of those on board were Liverpool supporters returning home from their teams convincing win over Luton Town. The age span was quite wide from about 16 to the mid fifties, they were almost without exception sporting the colours of Liverpool but it was a great pity that one of their sternest critics, Mr. Moynihan, was not also travelling on that train. There was no rowdy behaviour, there was no bad language, there was no contravention of the no smoking rules, they were a credit to football. Even when the train arrive back at Crewe they enquired about connections to the Midlands and even down to London so their journeys were by no means complete but in no way had they brought the game of football into disrepute. It is such a great pity that facts such as those outlined never get the publicity that they deserve, maybe one day they will.

No doubt there would have been many Crewe fans watching the televised league fixture Aston Villa v Manchester United the other weekend and hoping that Dave Platt would have got on the scoring charts. He did not do so but he was extremely close to it in the first half and always seemed to be getting into good attacking and supporting positions. Maybe the next time that the Villa are featured he will oblige us all with a goal.

Of the midweek games played last week perhaps the one that had the most dramatic ending was the Second Division fixture between Oldham Athletic and Portsmouth, after 86 minutes play the home side were leading their visitors by five clear goals and if any home fans left the ground early they would have been very surprised to see in the morning papers that Pompey had come back to hit three goals in the last four minutes. The moral of that story must therefore be, you must always wait until the final whistle is blown. Still on the subject of goal scoring, when Wolves turn on the power then visiting defences are really in for a tough time. It was Gillingham who were the latest side to feel their full power, Wolves turning a half time advantage of 4-0 into a final tally of 6-1, but this time Steve Bull only managed to get one of them.

Now that Hearts have gone out of the U.E.F.A. Cup competition there will not be the same amount of interest generated but by all accounts they gave a very creditable performance before eventually going down 2-0 to Bayern Munich. The single advantage that they had held from the first leg was just not quite enough. They did however give the home side a number of anxious moments and several goal attempts were so very close to finding the target. At least the Scottish, Welsh and Irish clubs do have the satisfaction that come next season providing their clubs win the various championships or cup competitions that they will have the opportunity to compete on a broader scene that the English ones.

The announcement of the fine that was to be imposed on Paul Allen for not travelling with the Spurs party which went to Newcastle so that he could be present for the birth of his first son would certainly have sent some shock waves around the footballing world. On the one hand it shows that clubs who pay their players excellent salaries really do expect them to honour their agreements and possibly others wonder if they will ever be able to reach the top level and be able to earn those self same salaries. As things turned out Q.P.R. won their game at Newcastle, but whether the punishment would have been even harsher had they lost is one of those facts that one can only ponder on.

It will be most surprising if there is a single ticket that has not been snapped up for this evening's game with Bolton Wanderers. Never before in the club's history have their fortunes been so closely followed and particularly over such a wide area. Even with the weather not being exactly kind to supporters on their way to the game the attendance was still over the 3,000 mark. Some supporters did make the journey from Exeter but not in sufficient numbers to have made the local interest less than the 3,000 mark.

Finally to our visitors from Bolton, we trust that you all have a most enjoyable evening here at Gresty Road, please take care when leaving the ground and have a safe journey home.

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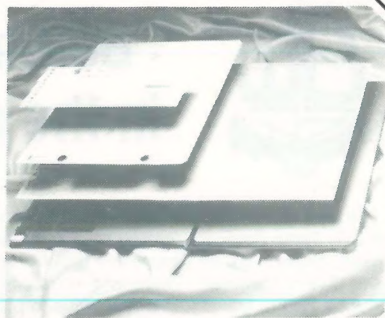
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Bolton's Record in the competition



The first game that Bolton Wanderers were to play in the competition was against Burnley and they lost 2-1, Tony Caldwell getting their only goal. That defeat meant that Bolton were out at least for that season. Season 84/85 gave them that home fixture with Crewe when they won with goals from Warren Joyce 2 and Caldwell. There was no score in the return game at Gresty Road but they were through and they had to travel just a few miles to play Rochdale, the result was a 1-0 win and Caldwell was once more the marksman. Darlington were the Quarter final opponents to Burnden Park and with George Oghani getting two goals they beat the team from Feethams 2-1. They were through to the Semi Final and Mansfield Town were their opponents, that game proved to be the end of the line for Bolton for they were defeated 2-1.

Season 85/86 turned out to be a very successful one in the competition for they got all the way to the final but there they were defeated 3-0 by Bristol City. Their trek to Wembley started away to Stockport where they gained a 2-2 draw, a 1-0 home win over Crewe Alex gave them another home game with Tranmere when they won again 2-1. In the Semi Final it was away to Darlington but they won that game decisively 3-0. Wigan Athletic were their Northern Area Final opponents and after winning 1-0 at Wigan they won the home encounter 2-1 and their Wembley place was booked, the outcome of that game we have already mentioned.

Season 86/87 they won their mini group by firstly beating Tranmere Rovers 2-0 at home and then Burnley by the same score. It was then Burnley home for they had beaten Tranmere and finished as runners up, this time the scoreline was 2-1. A third home fixture in the quarter final with Chester as the visitors but that was to prove their last for they were beaten 2-1. Last Season after drawing 0-0 with Preston they beat Stockport 3-0 but then lost in the first round proper to Bury 1-0.

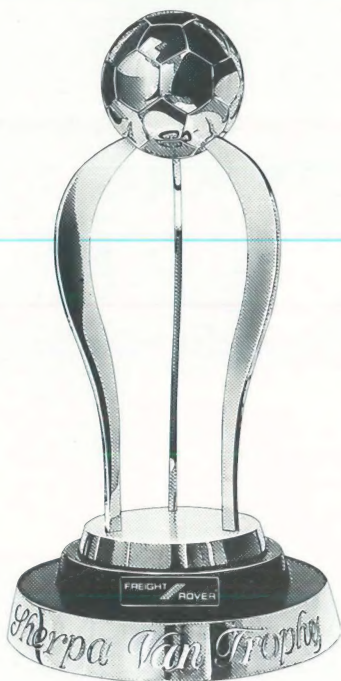
This season their games have resulted in a 1-0 victory over Preston in the preliminary round and then a 1-0 reverse at Bury but that proved to be sufficient to finish second in the group and it was Preston again and the result was once more a 1-0 win. In the quarter final Wrexham were their opponents at Burnden Park and that they won 3-1 after extra time.

So far The Alex have not recorded a win over Bolton in this competition, but there has to be a first for all things - at least we hope that is the case.

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The Goal.

Today's two teams are competing in the hope of capturing some of the Wembley glory enjoyed by last season's finalists.

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FREIGHT ROVER VANS



Paul Clayton prepares to take on the Lincoln defender

Aaron Callaghan peels away after scoring against Lincoln



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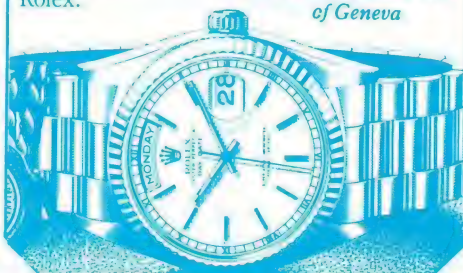
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T Sport

SIX SEASONS - THREE TITLES

- THE TARGET WEMBLEY

The Sherpa Van Trophy to give it its current title has grown from a competition where the rewards that were available to the winners from much smaller amounts to one where the two teams who reach the final, staged at Wembley can look forward to an attendance of at least 50,000 if not more and a substantial boost to their finances.

When the competition, open to clubs in the Third and Fourth Divisions first came into existence, in Season 1983/84 the title was the Associate Members Cup. The title Associate Members being the description of those clubs who operate in that league, only clubs playing in Divisions One and Two are Full Members of the Football League, all others are classified as Associate Members. Right from the start, the ties were settled on the night, with the exception of the Area Finals which are on a two legged basis. Extra time if the teams were level and then a penalty shoot out. However, in Season 84/85 there was a change, for in the first round after the pairings had been made those games were decided on a two legged basis and the aggregate scored taken into account to decide the winners, otherwise there was extra time again.

Since Season 1986/87 the first competition has been decided on a Preliminary Competition where mini groups containing three teams play two fixtures, this guarantees that each of the teams has both a home fixture and an away game. The winners of the group are then guaranteed a home game in the first round and the team that finishes in second place is away to one of the group winners.

What was named the Freight Rover Trophy gave way last season to the Sherpa Van Trophy and apart from the winners receiving the fine trophy, both the winners and the losing finalists each receive a Sherpa Van for the exclusive use of the clubs. This is an invaluable asset particularly for running players etc. around to training grounds etc. The attendance at last year's final between Wolverhampton Wanderers and Burnley was the highest to date. Burnley are out of the later stages of this year's competition but Wolves could well be back to try to retain the trophy, something which no club to date has been able to achieve.

You would have to be a very keen statistician to firstly give all Crewe's results to date in the competition but what would perhaps make it even more difficult would be to ask the reader to name the first Crewe side to play in the Associate Members Cup. Just to refresh the reader's memory the date for our first ever game was the 20th February 1984, the venue Edgeley Park, Stockport, scoreline Stockport 2 Crewe Alex 2. After extra time the scores were level but Crewe won 3-0 on penalties. The line up was: Naylor, Davis, Edwards, King, Scott, Hart, Pullar, Crabbe, Waller, Leonard, Cliss. Scorers: Waller and King. The next game was at Scunthorpe and yet again at the end of normal time and extra time the scores were level, this time 4-4, on that occasion Scunthorpe won 7-6 on penalties. By virtue of the fact that Crewe had scores six goal in the cup so far they qualified for the next stage and that was another game at Tranmere, there was no score at the end of extra time but Tranmere won 4-3 on penalties. Thus, Crewe had not been beaten in an actual game but had only been dismissed on penalties.

Season 84/85 saw a two legged tie with Bolton, we lost 3-2 at Burnden Park with our goals being scored by Waller and Blissett. Dave Waller's goal was at that time the fastest recorded by a Crewe player and the fastest goal scored at Bolton. In the return game at Crewe it ended in a goalless draw and Crewe went out on the aggregate score. Season 85/86 saw us record our most convincing win in the competition when beating Stockport County 4-1, Blissett and Waller getting two each only to lose 1-0 at Bolton in the next game. Season 86/87 gave us a home game with Chester and we lost that one 2-1, Tony Jarvis getting his only goal for the Alex in that game. The other game in that group was away at Preston and after a postponement due to illness in the first date we were eventually beaten 1-0. Season 87/88 gave us an away tie at Wigan where we drew 2-2 with goals from Roger Eli and Chris Cutler and a home draw with Bury saw us finish second in the group and gain an away tie at Sunderland. Although we lost that game 1-0 it was a very close affair and as things turned out it was also to be the last game that Dave Platt was to wear the Alex colours before his transfer to Aston Villa for a club record fee. The current seasons results are not listed separately for they are recorded on the fixtures page.

Just in case our visitors from Bolton think that they have been neglected, their results are documented on page 8.



OUR VISITORS

BOLTON WANDERERS

Bolton Wanderers should have been the first visitors to Gresty Road at the start of the 1987/88 Season but due to the fact that certain ground improvements had not been completed here the fixtures were switched and instead the Alex opened their season at Burnden Park. After Crewe had gone behind early in the game they fought back and Dave Platt scored our equalising goal. The return game at Gresty Road was also a close affair but in the end the Alex ran out winners by a 2-1 margin. Bolton eventually secured their promotion back to Division Three after just one season in the Fourth by winning their final game of the season, away at Wrexham. Currently they are holding a place around the mid table mark, their best home wins of the season have come in games against Chesterfield whom they beat 5-0 and against Cardiff where they managed to get four without reply. The only successes away from home to date have been a 3-0 win at Aldershot and a single goal win at Huddersfield.

MEET THEIR SQUAD

The man in charge at Bolton is **PHIL NEAL** who served Liverpool for many seasons. He still retains his player's contract but does not play in the side on a regular basis. His wide experience at the top level is a great asset in the task that he undertakes in getting Bolton Wanderers back in the higher divisions if at all possible.

DAVID FELGATE. His career started as an apprentice with Bolton but had not made a first team appearance for them when he was transferred to Lincoln City for a fee of £25,000. Prior to that transfer he had been out on loan to Rochdale and also with Crewe. He returned to Bolton in February 1987 but after leaving Lincoln had also been with Cardiff City and Grimsby Town. He was an ever present last season and was elected as their Player of the Year.

PHIL BROWN. He came from Halifax last summer at a fee of £17,000. His career had started with Hartlepool and during his time at the Victoria Ground he had played in over 200 games for them. During Season 86/87 he had scored 14 goals from the full back berth with Halifax, a record for a full back.

BARRY COWDRILL. His first club was Sutton Coldfield and then it was the opportunity of league football with West Bromwich Albion. Made his First Division debut for them in 1980 and in all played over 100 times for them. He came in the close season on a free transfer.

NICKY BROOKMAN. Born Manchester. As a Youth player he had spells with Newport County, Aston Villa and Wrexham before being offered a contract by Bolton Wanderers. He made his league debut for them against Carlisle United in April 1987. He played in 26 games last season and scored 6 goals.

DEAN CROMBIE. Plays either in the centre of the defence or at full back. His career has seen him with Lincoln City and Grimsby Town and before joining Bolton Wanderers just over a year ago he had made over 350 league appearances. He had a number of injury problems last season which curtailed his first team outings.

MARK WINSTANLEY. Born St. Helens. He is one of the products of the clubs Youth Scheme and had been on the fringe of the first team squad for some time before eventually making his breakthrough. He normally plays in one of the central defensive positions.

JEFF CHANDLER. He is in his second spell with Bolton. His career has seen him with Blackpool, Leeds United and then Derby County and was in their side that won promotion to the Second Division. A loan spell with Mansfield then followed before he came back to Bolton. After only 3 games last season he was out of action through a serious injury.

STEVE THOMPSON. Born in Oldham. He started with the club as an apprentice and eventually was offered a full professional contract. Made his debut for the club in November 1982 and has now made over 200 first team appearances for the club. Missed only two games during last season.

JOHN THOMAS. Although his first club was Everton it was when he was on loan spells with Tranmere Rovers and Halifax Town that he was able to gain league experience. He joined Bolton at the start of the 80/81 season but failed to get a regular place. Since then he has been with Chester, Lincoln City and Preston North End and when at Deepdale he was a regular marksman. Came back to Bolton at the start of last season and he reproduced that form with 22 league goals.

GARY HENSHAW. Born in Leeds, prior to moving to Bolton his only previous league club was Grimsby Town. After making over 50 appearances for the Mariners he moved to Bolton at the start of the 87/88 Season and was with the first team squad for most of last season.

JULIAN DARBY. The only Bolton born player at present in the first team squad. He has worked his way through the club's junior ranks and has proved his worth in the senior side by playing in a variety of positions, either at full back, in midfield or even at the centre of the defence.

STUART STORER. Born Harborough. He first came to the club on loan from Everton towards the end of 1987 and then signed for the club for a fee of £25,000. He had started his career with Mansfield Town followed by a spell with Birmingham and also on loan with Mansfield.

TREVOR MORGAN. Born in Forest Gate. Started out with Leytonstone before joining Bournemouth. His next move was to Mansfield and then back to Bournemouth. Subsequently he had spells with Bristol City, Exeter City and Bristol Rovers before coming to Bolton in the summer of 1987. Made 38 appearances last season and scored 7 goals.



BACK ROW (left to right): Ian Callaghan, Gary Henshaw, Paul Hughes, David Felgate, Julian Darby, Ian Stevens, Chris O'Brien. **MIDDLE ROW:** Phil Neal (Manager), Steve Carroll (Youth Coach), Nicky Brookman, Gary Brown, Stuart Storer, Trevor Morgan, Dave McKearnly, Bob Savage, Jeff Chandler, Mick Brown (Coach), Phil Stock (Physio). **FRONT ROW:** John Thomas, Steve Elliott, Phil Brown, Mark Came, Mark Winstanley, Dean Crombie, Barry Cowdrill, Steve Thompson.



CREWE ALEX SOCCER IN THE COMMUNITY UNDER E.T.



This evening we give a special welcome to a party of 12 children accompanied by Gary Pierce the former Wolves keeper who have come from the Junior Whites from Bolton and they will be taking on a challenge during the half time interval from a side from Wistaston Green School.

Next Saturday, the 25th, we shall be taking a party of children from Hungerford School to the game at Carlisle where they will be giving the Alex some support. They are one of the newer entrants to the scheme and the person in charge there is Billy Rafferty the former Coventry, Plymouth and Portsmouth player.

The next Quiz evening which will be held in the Alexandra Centre will be on Monday, 3rd April and as before the teams will consist of 5 members. Teams whose entry fee is £5 can either be from local industry or from Associations and it will be a trivia quiz. We are very thankful to Robert Layland for their continued sponsorship of these events.

Just to show how varied our activities are tomorrow we are taking a party of 28 pensioners who are regular attenders at our Tea Dances to an "Easter Bonnet" event being held at Congleton. Those who we cannot take to this event will have a trip to a Tea Dance which will be held at Manchester City F.C. on another date.

Man of the Match



Mr. Peter Carless of Midland Rollmakers presents Paul Edwards with the Man of the Match award after the game against Lincoln City last Saturday.

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Mark Gardiner evades the high challenge of the Lincoln defender to get in a cross

Steve Walters keeps his eye on the ball in last Saturday's clash with Lincoln





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November

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4th Avenue, Weston Road Industrial Estate, Crewe

January

- 7 ASTON VILLA (FAC3) John Hulse

March

- 21 BOLTON W. (SVT SF). In memory of the late Jack Clark

Recollections of a Press Man

Unless a member of that intrepid band of reporters was known to members of the public the average football supporter would not be able to recognise the various journalists who cover games at whatever level or whatever ground they are played on.

As this evening's game is a Semi-Final tie in a competition which has started out with a total of 48 clubs and will soon be down to the last four, two from the North and two from the South it seems an ideal time to bring the readers attention to comments of an intrepid reporter from the Crewe Guardian who went to report on the Preston North End v Crewe Alexandra F.A. Cup tie which took place on the 18th February 1888, just over 101 years ago.

"The eventful day, the big day with the fate of Crewe Alexandra, has come and gone. The Railwaymen have passed through the fiery ordeal - or perhaps it would be more correct to say through the Slough of Despond - and have come out swimmingly, which latter remark we use in its strictly literal sense. Alas! and is it to come to this? That is a somewhat poetic phrase, and we need it after the stern reality of a day at Everton football ground, for there was no poetry there. It was a ground to be remembered. Mud, mud everywhere, and not a drop to drink. Of course the drink does not apply to the mud; no one felt inclined to imbibe that; but there was 'nowt' else to drink except in the vicinity of Mr. Sudell, who doubtless in the anticipation of a nice easy time for his pets had suffered some expansion of the heart, and handed his flask round freely.

A heavily laden special train ran by way of Warrington and Earlestown to Walton while the ordinary trains via Runcorn took many others to the same station at Lime Street. From Walton station it was a very enjoyable tramp across Stanley Park to Everton ground. There was a little mud certainly, which tended to impede one's progress somewhat, but then it might have been worse. We say 'might' advisedly. Let it not be assumed that we have ever seen it worse. We had not commenced reporting football matches in Noah's time and therefore cannot tell what sort of state Stanley Park was in about the time of the Ark's fixing on Mount Ararat. We simply venture to suggest that the said Ark may have been as bad as on Saturday last. However, the walk across the park was a very enjoyable one in spite of the mud, for when one was not floundering knee deep in the mire it was fine fun to watch those who were. Stanley Park being navigated, the ground was reached in due course and here was a sight worthy of all the ancient deities. The ground is surrounded by bib boarding, the object being to confine the quagmire within as small a space as possible and prevent it running into the streets and suffocating the people. After wading through a street where the mud held supreme sway we arrived at the reserve entrance and making up our minds to face the worst, slid gracefully through the slippery portal with the kindly assistance of a burly policeman, whose principal duty seemed to be to prop up the mud bedaubed visitors as they went through the gate. Once inside we found we were not the first who had summoned sufficient courage to enter. That gave us courage and slipping through the little wicket which was guarded by another member of the force we made tracks for the press stand on the opposite side of the ground. Had there been more of us, we would probably have taken counsel together before attempting to cross the ground, and the result would have been that we should not have been ignominiously and uncomfortably stuck between the goal posts to the intense enjoyment of the vulgar spectators. However the subject is not a pleasant one so we pass on - that is, we did pass on as soon as by dint of a long pull, and a pull all together we had extricated our sacred and august plurality from something short of three fathoms of mud. Having got clear of the goal posts we went round the longest and by far the quickest way and at length arrived at the pavilion where with a sigh of relief we squeezed in between a score of other press representatives."

Believe it or not, following this detailed description there was eventually a report of the game itself with further references to the "quagmire" of a pitch and the "mudlarks" which were witnessed by the spectators.

Happily those reporters who will be filing their stories from this evening's Semi Final tie will not have had to encounter such difficulties.

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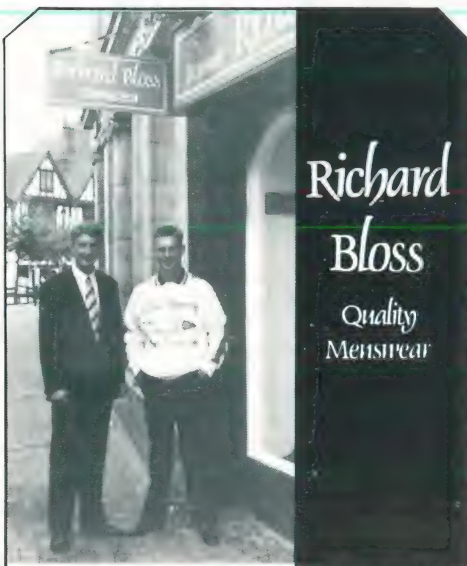
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The Football Grounds Improvement Trust is responsible for all these measures. Each year it receives £4.5 million from the Spotting-the-Ball competition run by Littlewoods, Vernons and Zetters and spends it on schemes to improve standards at British football stadia.



Vice-Presidents' Association

A feature of this season has been the level of support that the Alex have enjoyed away from home, and that has included a substantial number of V.P.'s. Those who were at Wigan for the previous round will agree that the team have thoroughly deserved this opportunity tonight to take another step on the way to a Wembley appearance. Perhaps that will be our next away trip!

The final account for the Sixties Evening showed a profit of almost £1,100. This was an excellent achievement and we are grateful to all who contributed to the success of the event. The proceeds are to be shared between ourselves and the League of Friends and a cheque is to be presented to them. Many people have already asked when the next one will be held. Well, we may organise another one some time early next season. We are always open to suggestions about the type and format of social events, although having the idea is usually the easy part. So be prepared to follow through and help with the organisation!

Our regular match day feature the "Time for First Goal" competition is going well this year. The idea is very simple. Each game we sell 90 numbered tickets at 50p each (directors £1). Whoever holds the ticket number corresponding to the time of the first goal in the match wins a bottle of Whisky. This season we've not had much of a problem with goalless draws thanks to Messrs. Fishenden, Gardiner, etc. Tickets are on sale before the match in the VP lounge. Incidentally, volunteers to sell the tickets would be very welcome as the job does tend to fall on the same few shoulders.

Finally on behalf of all the Vice-Presidents I would like to take this opportunity of wishing the team Good Luck tonight and I am sure everyone will give them full support.

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Action from the last round at Wigan



Andy Sussex scores the only goal of the game



Steve Walters shields the ball from the Wigan defender

The Alex players applaud the travelling fans after the game for their tremendous support



14[illegible]

Denotes substituted player • Denotes substituted goalkeeper

The Secretary writes.....

These have indeed been busy times during the last few weeks with the games both at home and away requiring much attention due to coach travel and ticket arrangements. However, despite the hard work that has been involved it has been good to see so many people who are coming to support the Alex in what without doubt has been the best season for a long time.

Quite a number of the telephone calls that we have been receiving in the last few days have been to enquire as to who is the lucky person who has won the Special Prize that was on offer in the recent Concorde Draw. The winner's name was known when the draw was made at the home game against Exeter and it is Mrs. Langan of Lunt Avenue, Crewe. On the 8th April she will be going on that trip on Concorde, a real flight to look forward to and then to remember. The runners up prize was won by Mr. Dowd.

Away Travel

Firstly a final reminder that the departure time of the coaches for the Barclays League fixture at Carlisle on Saturday, 25th March is now 10.00 a.m., the fare £5.00.

Precise details of the prices and departure times for the coaches to Burnley on Tuesday, 4th April are not available at the time these notes went to press. We hope to give them in the Alex News for the game v Rotherham on Easter Monday.

Alexandra Soccer and Community Association

For the Easter programme at the Centre there is a special coaching course for children in the Age group for 7 to 15 year olds (this course is run in association with Crewe Alex F.C. and the Football Association).

The course dates are 23rd and 24th March from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. and the same times also operate on dates between the 27th to the 31st March and 3rd to the 5th April. There is a daily rate of £4.00 or there is a special rate for 7 days or more at £28.00. You need a change of warm clothing, trainers or moulded studs and a packed lunch. For further details ring Bill Prendergast on Crewe 215749.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Thanks to **CHRONICLE NEWSPAPERS** who have sponsored our new video system which we have obtained from Curry's, we are now able to produce good quality videos of our games. These will be available for purchase at £10 per video or for hire at £2.00 per night. All enquiries in respect of the videos should be made to Gill Palin in the Commercial Department of the club.

Lancashire League Fixtures

August									
20	Marine Res.	A	0-1	21	Marine Res.	H	1-3		
27	Everton A	H	4-4	30	Stockport Res.	A	1-2		
September				January, 1989					
3	Liverpool A	A	0-2	7	Bury Res.	A	2-3		
10	Burnley Res.	H	4-2	14	Bury Res.	H	5-0		
17	Burnley Res.	A	3-1	21	Everton A	A	1-2		
24	Blackburn A	H	3-3	28	Carlisle Res.	A	Post		
October				February					
1	Stockport Res.	H	5-2	4	Blackburn Res.	A	0-3		
8	Morecambe Res.	A	5-2	11	Morecambe Res.	H	1-1		
15	U.M.I.S.T.	A	1-2	18	Rochdale Res.	A	5-1		
21	Liverpool A	H	3-1	25	Bolton A	H	Post.		
29	Rochdale Res.	H	6-3	March					
November				4					
5	Man. City A	A	1-3	11	Accrington Res.	A	7-2		
12	Preston N.E. A	A	3-6	18					
19	Preston N.E. A	H	2-1	25	U.M.I.S.T.	H			
26				April					
December				1	Carlisle Res.	H			
3	Accrington Res.	H	post.	8	Man. City A	H			
10	Man. Utd. A	A	2-2	15	Bolton A	A			
17	Man. Utd. A	A	3-1						

TEAMS

CREWE ALEXANDRA

Red Shirts, White Shorts

- 1 PAUL EDWARDS
- 2 KENNY SWAIN
- 3 PAUL EDWARDS
- 4 PETER BILLING
- 5 AARON CALLAGHAN
- 6 STEVE WALTERS
- 7 DALE JASPER
- 8 AIDAN MURPHY
- 9 ANDY SUSSEX
- 10 MARK GARDINER
- 11 PAUL FISHENDEN
- 12
- 14

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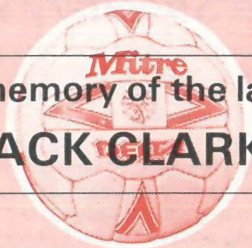
G. SINGH (Yellow Trimmed Flag)

BOLTON WANDERERS

White Shirts, Navy Blue Shorts

- 1 DAVID FELGATE
- 2 PHIL BROWN
- 3 BARRY COWDRILL
- 4 ROBBIE SAVAGE
- 5 DEAN CROMBIE
- 6 MARK WINSTANLEY
- 7 STUART STORER
- 8 STEVE THOMPSON
- 9 JOHN THOMAS
- 10 MIKE JEFFREY
- 11 JULIAN DARBY
- 12
- 14

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Monday, 27th March, 1989

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v ROTHERHAM UNITED

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Saturday, 8th April, 1989

Barclays League Division Four

v SCARBOROUGH

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

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